

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [31] with the following amended paragraph:

[31] In another example, the air from the supply ~~42-32~~ is bypassed through the bypass conduit 54 during system startup conditions. This particular example recognizes that the exhaust from the cathode 26 will be heated and tend to raise the temperature of the ERD 40 even though the ambient temperature of the air from the supply 32 would tend to cool the ERD 40. Accordingly, this arrangement reduces the thermal load on the ERD during a startup condition. The controller 50 in this example preferably is programmed to operate the bypass valve 56 to bypass air through the bypass conduit 54 during startup conditions and then to allow air flow through the first portion ~~32-42~~ as soon as the operating temperature of the fuel cell 22 reaches a desired level. This particular technique prevents re-freezing of any moisture in the system gases flowing through the ERD 40 during startup

Please replace paragraph [33] with the following amended paragraph:

[33] In addition to selectively directing fluid flow through the ERD 40, some example systems designed according to this invention include a heater associated with the ERD 40. The example embodiment of Figure 2 schematically includes a heater 60 that receives at least some of the heated coolant fluid from the cooler 34 through a conduit 62. Fluid exiting the heater 60 flows through a conduit 64. In this example, the heater 60 comprises at least one heating element, such as a heat exchanger that conducts the heat from the exhaust of the cooler 34 in a manner that warms the ERD 40. In one example, the heater 60 comprises a heat exchanger associated with the structure of the ERD 40. In another example, the heater 60 comprises a plurality of elements supported within the

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ERD 40 through which the heated coolant from the cooler 34 flows and provides the heating function. Another example includes direct injection of a portion of the heated coolant directly into the ERD inlet 42 co-flowing within the air channels. The controller 50 in one example utilizes temperature information to control operation of the heater 60. Given this description, those skilled in the art will be able to configure the appropriate components and to program a controller to realize a heating strategy that satisfies their particular needs.

Please replace paragraph [37] with the following amended paragraph:

[37] The fuel supply 80 in this example provides fuel to a conventional fuel processing arrangement 82. A heat exchanger 84 associated with the fuel processing arrangement 82 provides fuel to the anodes-anode 24 through a conduit 86. Another side of the heat exchanger 84 is coupled with a conduit 88 that is coupled with the valve 56', which controls air supply to the first portion 42 of the ERD 40. The air from the supply 32 is at least partially preheated using the heat exchanger 84 under selected temperature conditions. In one example, whenever a selected temperature, such as the ambient temperature, is at or below 0°C, the controller 50 operates the valve 56' such that the air from the supply 32 is preheated using the heat exchanger 84 before being provided to the first portion 42 of the ERD 40.